



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/500,731	Ernst Merk	VO-679

42419
 PAULEY PETERSEN & ERICKSON
 2800 WEST HIGGINS ROAD
 SUITE 365
 HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60195

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	
PCT/EP03/00178	
IA. FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE
01/10/2003	01/12/2002

CONFIRMATION NO. 7188
371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER



OC000000014914432

Date Mailed: 01/11/2005

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.495

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

<u>12/17/2004</u>	<u>12/17/2004</u>
DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS	DATE OF COMPLETION OF ALL 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE " FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- Indication of Small Entity Status
- Copy of the International Application filed on 07/02/2004
- English Translation of the IA filed on 07/02/2004
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 07/02/2004
- Copy of IPE Report filed on 07/02/2004
- Preliminary Amendments filed on 07/02/2004
- Information Disclosure Statements filed on 12/17/2004
- Oath or Declaration filed on 12/17/2004
- Small Entity Statement filed on 10/04/2004
- Request for Immediate Examination filed on 07/02/2004
- U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 07/02/2004

- Substitute Specification filed on 07/02/2004
- Assignment filed on 12/17/2004
- Priority Documents filed on 07/02/2004
- Power of Attorney filed on 12/17/2004

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

SHAKEEL AHMED
Telephone: (703) 305-3659

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)